16. An observation and assessment system according to claim 14 wherein said recording address data is automatically appended to an existing index item entry when said subject or operator returns to a pre-defined event descriptor measurement item one or more times in the course of assessing or describing observed events.

17. An observation and assessment system according to claim 14 wherein re-assessment of said recorded event data is carried out using said set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items.

18. An observation and assessment system according to claim 14 wherein comparison of assessment or re-assessment results across or within observation subjects is substantially enhanced by use of said set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items.

19. An integrated observation, assessment, recording, and indexing method, comprising:

   a. presenting a subject or operator with a set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items for use by the subject or operator to structure the observation and assessment of observed events or phenomena;

   b. simultaneously recording and storing observed events or phenomena with a data track of event data sequenced by a track of address data; and

   c. associating each of said pre-defined event descriptor measurement item used by said subject or operator in the process of said observation and assessment, automatically generating an index item entry in a data base with at least one field denoting a pre-defined event descriptor measurement item linked to recording address data for associated said observed events or phenomena,

whereby meaningful, systematic, and standardized indica to recordings of observed and assessed events, based upon pre-defined event descriptor measure items used by said subject or operator, are automatically generated and available for use in further processing.

20. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein said method for presenting said subject or operator with said set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items includes providing a microprocessor, a storage system, and an output display.

21. An observation and assessment method according to claim 33 wherein said output display is a video or computer display.

22. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein said pre-defined event descriptor measurement items are presented to a subject by the actions of an assessor.

23. An observation and assessment method according to claim 35 wherein said assessor interacts with said subject in accordance with the process of observation and assessment.

24. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein said pre-defined event descriptor measurement items include one or more of descriptive text, graphical objects, or video objects.

25. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein said pre-defined event descriptor measurement items include one or more rating scales.

26. An observation and assessment method according to claim 38 wherein said rating scales employ quantitative ratings.

27. An observation and assessment method according to claim 30 wherein said set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items contains or is based upon an

established survey, questionnaire, examination plan, report form, or other assessment instrument.

28. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein said set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items is created and stored by a user prior to use in observation and assessment.

29. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein said method for recording and storing observed events is digital.

30. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein said address data is time code based.

31. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein segments of recorded material are automatically defined as said subject or operator proceeds from one pre-defined event descriptor measurement item to another.

32. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein said recording address data is automatically appended to an existing index item entry when said subject or operator returns to a pre-defined event descriptor measurement item one or more times in the course of assessing or describing observed events.

33. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein re-assessment of said recorded event data is carried out using said set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items.

34. An observation and assessment method according to claim 32 wherein comparison of assessment results across or within observation subjects is substantially enhanced by use of said set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items.

System and Method for Indexing Recordings of Observed and Assessed Phenomena